



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,394	01/16/2004	Daniel R. Foster	13213-061001	6690
26191	7590	04/04/2006		
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. PO BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			EXAMINER HOGE, GARY CHAPMAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3611	
DATE MAILED: 04/04/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/759,394	Applicant(s) FOSTER, DANIEL R.	
	Examiner Gary C. Hoge	Art Unit 3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 12, 13 and 17-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 12, 13, 18-24 and 26-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12, 18-24, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Struhl (5,275,438).

Struhl discloses a card comprising a front panel 4 and a rear panel 6 connected at a fold line, the front panel having a front surface, a plurality of peripheral edges, and an interior surface, and a collapsible bag structure 18 attached to the front surface such that the collapsible bag structure is positioned forward of the front panel, the collapsible bag structure having outer edges spaced apart from the peripheral edges of the front panel so that a substantial portion of the front surface of the front panel is viewable (col. 3, lines 36-37), the collapsible bag structure having at least one fold line (col. 3, lines 52-56) such that at least a portion of the structure (i.e., the flap 42) is adjustable to a collapsed condition, wherein the collapsible bag structure is operable to releasably retain an object (the recitation that the object is a gift card is a statement of intended use), and wherein the peripheral edges of the front panel include a top edge 12a and a left edge 14b, the collapsible bag structure has an opening 44 that faces toward the top edge of the front panel, and the fold line at which the front panel and rear panel are connected is disposed proximal to the left edge of the front panel. See Fig. 1.

Art Unit: 3611

Regarding claims 1 and 9, a “bag” is defined as “a container of flexible material, such as paper, plastic, or leather, that is used for storing items.”

Regarding claims 2, 3 and 20, a larger bag of the type disclosed by Struhl could be used as a shopping bag.

Regarding claims 4 and 22, Struhl discloses a retention element 52.

Regarding claim 12, an “envelope” is defined as “something that envelops; a wrapping.” The retaining means disclosed by Struhl meets that definition.

Regarding claim 18, the claim is a subcombination claim drawn to a card and a container. Limitations drawn to the object to be placed in the container are merely statements of intended use and do not patentably distinguish the claim over the prior art.

Regarding claim 21, the bag structure disclosed by Struhl is capable of retaining a prepaid gift card. The recitation that the bag “resembles a shopping bag from a retail store” is merely an ornamental consideration, and it has been held that matters relating to ornamentation only, and having no mechanical function, cannot be relied on where claims are not directed to design but are structural claims. *In re Seid*, 73 USPQ 431.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-9, 12, 18-24, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guderyon (5,288,144) in view of Struhl (5,275,438).

Guderyon discloses a card comprising a front panel **14** and a rear panel **16** connected at a fold line **24**, the front panel having a front surface, a plurality of peripheral edges, and an interior surface, and a collapsible bag structure **8** attached to the front surface such that the collapsible bag structure is positioned forward of the front panel, the collapsible bag structure having outer edges spaced apart from the peripheral edges of the front panel so that a substantial portion of the front surface of the front panel is viewable, the collapsible bag structure having at least one fold line **20** such that at least a portion of the structure (i.e., the flap **28**) is adjustable to a collapsed condition, wherein the collapsible bag structure is operable to releasably retain an object (the recitation that the object is a gift card is a statement of intended use), and wherein the peripheral edges of the front panel include a top edge and a left edge, the collapsible bag structure has an opening, and the fold line at which the front panel and rear panel are connected is disposed proximal to the left edge of the front panel. See Fig. 2. However, the opening of the collapsible bag structure faces toward the side edge of the front panel. Struhl teaches that it was known in the art to attach a bag structure with its opening facing toward the top edge of the front panel. Compare Figs. 4 and 6. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to orient the collapsible bag structure toward the top edge of the front panel, as taught by Struhl, in order to store the card in the upright position shown in Fig. 6 of Struhl, as is commonly done.

Regarding claims 1 and 9, a “bag” is defined as “a container of flexible material, such as paper, plastic, or leather, that is used for storing items.”

Regarding claims 2, 3 and 20, a larger bag of the type disclosed by Guderyon could be used as a shopping bag.

Regarding claims 4 and 22, Guderyon discloses a retention element 30.

Regarding claim 12, an “envelope” is defined as “something that envelops; a wrapping.”

The retaining means disclosed by Guderyon meets that definition.

Regarding claim 18, the claim is a subcombination claim drawn to a card and a container. Limitations drawn to the object to be placed in the container are merely statements of intended use and do not patentably distinguish the claim over the prior art.

Regarding claim 21, the bag structure disclosed by Guderyon is capable of retaining a prepaid gift card. The recitation that the bag “resembles a shopping bag from a retail store” is merely an ornamental consideration, and it has been held that matters relating to ornamentation only, and having no mechanical function, cannot be relied on where claims are not directed to design but are structural claims. *In re Seid*, 73 USPQ 431.

5. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guderyon (5,288,144) in view of Struhl (5,275,438) as applied to claim 26 above, and further in view of MacWilliams et al. (2002/0050711).

Guderyon discloses the invention substantially as claimed, as set forth above. However, there is no text on the front of the card. MacWilliams teaches that it was known in the art to put text on the front cover of a folder. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to put text on the front cover of the folder disclosed by Guderyon, in order to convey information about the contents of the folder.

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Struhl (5,275,438) in view of Walton (6,652,178).

Struhl discloses the invention substantially as claimed, as set forth above, including a container attached to a folder sheet. However, the container is not in the form of a collapsible box. Walton teaches that it was known in the art to provide a folder sheet with a collapsible box for storing cards. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the folder sheet disclosed by Struhl with a collapsible box, as taught by Walton, in order to store cards.

7. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guderyon (5,288,144) in view of Struhl (5,275,438) as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Walton (6,652,178).

Guderyon discloses the invention substantially as claimed, as set forth above, including a container attached to a folder sheet. However, the container is not in the form of a collapsible box. Walton teaches that it was known in the art to provide a folder sheet with a collapsible box for storing cards. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the folder sheet disclosed by Guderyon with a collapsible box, as taught by Walton, in order to store cards.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 17 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

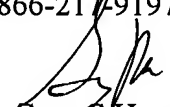
Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary C. Hoge whose telephone number is (571) 272-6645. The examiner can normally be reached on 5-4-9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gary C Hoge
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3611

gch